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ATTORNEYS FOR GRAND PACIFIC FINANCE CORPORATION

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

§ In re: 88888 Case No. 10-37054-SGJ EQK BRIDGEVIEW PLAZA, INC. Chapter 11 Preliminary Hearing: Debtor. November 4, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM THE AUTOMATIC STAY

NOTICE

PURSUANT TO LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULE 4001-1(b), A RESPONSE IS REQUIRED TO THIS MOTION, OR THE ALLEGATIONS IN THE MOTION MAY BE DEEMED ADMITTED, AND AN ORDER GRANTING THE RELIEF SOUGHT MAY BE ENTERED BY DEFAULT.

ANY RESPONSE SHALL BE IN WRITING AND FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT AT 1100 COMMERCE STREET, ROOM 1254, DALLAS, TEXAS 75242 BEFORE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON OCTOBER 22, 2010, WHICH IS AT LEAST 14 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF SERVICE HEREOF. A COPY SHALL BE SERVED UPON COUNSEL FOR THE MOVING PARTY AND ANY TRUSTEE OR EXAMINER APPOINTED IN THE CASE. ANY RESPONSE SHALL INCLUDE A DETAILED AND COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT AS TO HOW THE MOVANT CAN BE "ADEQUATELY PROTECTED" IF THE STAY IS TO BE CONTINUED.

COMES NOW Grand Pacific Finance Corporation ("GP"), by and through its counsel Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal, L.L.P. and Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, P.C., and requests that this Court lift the automatic stay under sections 362(d)(4) and/or 362(d)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, and in support thereof, states as follows:

FACTS

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over this motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(b) and 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(G).
- On October 4, 2010 (the "Petition Date"), the Debtor filed a petition for relief 2. under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- No trustee has been appointed in this case and no unsecured creditors' committee 3. has yet been formed.
- 4. Prior to the Petition Date, on January 12, 2005, South Cochran Corporation ("SCC") executed a promissory note in favor of GP in the principal sum of \$3,750,000.00 (the "Note"), a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.¹
- 5. The indebtedness due under the Note was secured by a retail shopping center located in Michigan City, Indiana, more commonly known as "Dunes Plaza" (the "Property"), pursuant to a mortgage also dated January 12, 2005 (the "Mortgage"), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit B.
- Pursuant to Section 3.19 of the Mortgage, SCC was prohibited from transferring 6. its ownership interest in the Property to any third party, absent the consent of GP:

Without the prior consent of Mortgagee in each instance, Mortgagor shall not, directly or indirectly, sell, transfer, alienate, grant, convey, assign, pledge, hypothecate, or transfer as security for debt, the Mortgaged Property or any part thereof or any interest therein. The Indebtedness shall be immediately due and

¹ Copies of Exhibits hereto are attached to the Court's original and have been provided to the Debtor. Copies are also available on PACER and will be provided to other parties in interest upon request.

payable upon any sale or other conveyance of the Mortgaged Property by Mortgagor.

- 7. The Note matured on January 12, 2010, and SCC has been in default since that date.
- 8. On May 6, 2010, GP exercised its rights under its assignment of leases and rents and notified all tenants and SCC of the rent execution. *See* Exhibit C attached hereto.
- 9. On July 7, 2010, GP initiated suit against SCC in the Circuit Court for the State of Indiana, Laporte County (the "State Court"), to collect the indebtedness due under the Note, to pursue collection under a guaranty of the indebtedness due under the Note, to foreclose on GP's Mortgage with respect to the Property and to appoint a receiver over the Property (the "Receivership Action").
- 10. On July 19, 2010, in the Receivership Action, the State Court entered an Order for Appointment of Receiver (the "Receivership Order"), a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit D.**
- 11. The Receivership Order contained an injunction against SCC, which enjoined SCC from taking any action with respect to the Property, including any transfer of the Property:

South Cochran, its agents and employees, and all other persons or entities who receive notice of this Order by any means (other than the Receiver), are restrained and enjoined from transferring, expending, distributing, concealing, destroying, damaging, or otherwise diminishing or causing harm to the Property, or any part of the Property, all fixtures, machinery, equipment, engines, boilers, incinerators, building materials, appliances, and goods of every nature, and all articles of personal property located in, or on, or used, or intended to be used in connection with the Property, all proceeds from the operations of the Property, including all rents and other revenues, and all records relating in any way to the Property or its operations.

See Receivership Order, \P 15 (emphasis added).

- 12. Notwithstanding this injunction in the Receivership Order, and the express prohibition on transfer set forth in the Mortgage, SCC allegedly transferred title to the Property to the Debtor, an affiliate, within a week prior to the Petition Date.²
- 13. The alleged transfer was undertaken without the consent of GP, without notice to the Receiver and without permission of the Judge in the State Court who was overseeing the Receivership Action.
- 14. Additionally, the Debtor allegedly caused the affiliated owners of two other properties, described as: (i) 1925 Valley View Lane, Farmers Branch, Texas, and (ii) Windmill Farms Development, Forney, Texas, to transfer such properties to the Debtor on the eve of bankruptcy.³

APPLICABLE LAW

15. Section 362(d) of the Bankruptcy Code provides, in pertinent part:

On request of a party in interest and after notice and a hearing, the court shall grant relief from the stay provided under subsection (a) of this section, such as by terminating, annulling, modifying or conditioning such stay—

(1) For cause, including the lack of adequate protection of an interest in property of such party in interest;

* * *

- (4) with respect to a stay of an act against real property under subsection (a), by a creditor whose claim is secured by an interest in such real property, if the court finds that the filing of the petition was part of a scheme to delay, hinder, and defraud creditors that involved either—
 - (A) transfer of all or part ownership of, or other interest in, such real property without the consent of the secured creditor or court approval; or (B) multiple bankruptcy filings affecting such real property.

11 U.S.C. § 362(d).

² While a demand has been made on Debtor's counsel to produce the transfer documents, no documents have yet been provided. The information regarding the alleged transfer was provided verbally by Debtor's counsel to GP's counsel on October 5, 2010.

³ Copies of these transfer documents have also been requested, but not produced.

ARGUMENT

I. Cause Exists for Relief from the Automatic Stay Under Section 362(d)(4).

- 16. On its face, section 362(d)(4) requires that a court grant relief from the automatic stay with respect to an act against real property if the court finds that: (i) the movant is a secured creditor, (ii) the filing of the petition was part of a scheme to delay, hinder, and defraud creditors, and (iii) such scheme involved a transfer of real property without the consent of the secured lender or court approval. *See e.g. In re Blair*, 2009 WL 5203737 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. Dec. 21, 2009) (granting stay relief and dismissing bankruptcy case); *In re Montalvo*, 416 B.R. 381 (Bankr. E.D.N.Y. 2009) (same); *In re Young*, 2007 WL 128280 (Bankr. S.D.Tex. Jan. 10, 2007) (granting stay relief); *In re Duncan & Forbes Development*, *Inc.*, 368 B.R. 27 (Bankr. C.D.Cal. 2006).
- 17. In this case, as evidenced by the Note and the Mortgage, there can be no question that GP is a secured creditor with respect to the Property.
- 18. The alleged transfer of the Property was part of a scheme to hinder, delay and defraud GP because, among other reasons:
 - (i) the alleged transfer was undertaken in violation of the covenants set forth in the Mortgage prohibiting such a transfer absent consent;
 - (ii) the alleged transfer occurred only after significant litigation (including the appointment of the Receiver) and an ongoing default under the Note;
 - (iii) the alleged transfer occurred in direct violation of the Receivership Order which prohibited such a transfer;
 - (iv) the alleged transfer occurred without notice to, or consent from, GP, the Receiver or the State Court Judge;
 - (v) the alleged transfer was not an isolated incident, but was undertaken in conjunction with the transfer of two additional pieces of real property owned by Debtor affiliates into the Debtor; and
 - (vi) the alleged transfer was undertaken on the eve of the filing of this bankruptcy case.

- 19. Viewing all of these circumstances as a whole, the alleged transfer of the Property was not an isolated transaction but rather was part of a systematic scheme designed to defraud GP and other secured lenders. Moreover, the Debtor's violation of the Receivership Order constitutes a fraud on the court, and thus a fraud on GP as a direct beneficiary of the Receivership Order.
- 20. Accordingly, GP submits that cause exists to grant relief from the automatic stay in this matter under section 362(d)(4) of the Bankruptcy Code.

II. Cause Exists for Relief from the Automatic Stay Under Section 362(d)(1).

- 21. Additionally or alternatively, "cause" exists for relief from the automatic stay with respect to the Property in this case under section 362(d)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 22. Section 362(d)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code does not define the term "cause." Numerous courts have held, however, that bad faith can constitute "cause" for purposes of section 362(d)(1). In re Trident Associates, L.P., 52 F.3d 127, 131 (6th Cir. 1995); In re Laguna Associates, L.P., 30 F.3d 734, 736-37 (6th Cir. 1994); In re Dixie Broadcasting, Inc., 871 F.2d 1023 (11th Cir. 1989). Although there is no precise test for determining bad faith, courts have identified the following factors, among others, as being meaningful in evaluating whether an organizational debtor acted in bad faith: (i) whether the pre-petition conduct of the debtor has been improper, (ii) whether the parties have proceeded to a standstill in state court litigation and the debtor has lost, and (iii) whether the filing of the petition effectively allows the debtor to evade court orders. Laguna Associates, L.P., 30 F.3d at 738.
- 23. In this case, for the reasons set forth above, the Debtor's bad faith constitutes "cause" such that the Court should grant GP relief from the automatic stay with respect to the Property. The alleged transfer of the Property to the Debtor on the eve of this bankruptcy filing was in violation of both the covenants set forth in the Mortgage and the express and unequivocal

language in the Receivership Order. GP had already secured the appointment of a receiver in the Receivership Action. The alleged transfer of the Property in conjunction with the filing of the petition not only allowed the Debtor to evade a court order, it directly violated a court order, the Receivership Order. Considering all of the facts and circumstances, there can be no question that the Debtor has acted in bad faith.

III. Request for Adequate Protection.

24. In the event that relief from the automatic stay is not granted, GP requests that the Court require the Debtor to provide adequate protection to GP in such form as the Court may deem appropriate.

WHEREFORE, GP respectfully requests that this Court: (i) lift the automatic stay with respect to the Property under sections 362(d)(4) and/or 362(d)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, and (ii) grant such other relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

Dated: October 8, 2010.

Respectfully submitted;

/s/ Stephen A. Goodwin

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Lisa M. Lucas
Texas State Bar No. 24067734

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jwelford@jaffelaw.com

CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE

The undersigned hereby certifies that he called Debtor's counsel, Melissa S. Hayward, on October 7, 2010 regarding the relief requested in this Motion. Ms. Hayward has not consented to the relief requested.

/s/ Jay L. Welford
Jay L. Welford

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned does hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served via ECF-electronic mail and/or first class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, to the persons and parties listed on the attached Service List on this 8th day of October 2010.

/s/ Lisa M. Lucas

Lisa M. Lucas

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In re EQK Bridgeview Plaza, Inc. Case No. 10-37054

SERVICE LIST

[891985]

EQK Bridgeview Plaza, Inc. 1750 Valley View Lane, #440

Dallas, TX 75234

ARI Windmill Farms 8144 Walnut Hill Lane, #180 Dallas, TX 75231

Advanced Comfort Specialist, LLC P. O. Box 25 La Crosse, WI 54602

BB & T 8144 Walnut Hill Ln, Ste 180 Dallas, TX 75231

Bank of America NA Midland Loan Services, Inc. c/o Bryan Larson, Thompson & Knight 1722 Routh Street, #1500 Dallas, TX 75201

Century Link P. O. Box 4300 Carol Stream, IL 60197-4300

Creative Hairdressers 320 Dunes Plaza, Unit 16 Michigan City, IN 46360

Custom Construction 2012 E US Highway 20 Michigan City, IN 46360

David Kanger 814 Broadbrook Ln Michigan City, IN 46360 VIA ECF Melissa S. Hayward

Franklin Skierski Lovall Hayward LLP 10501 N. Central Expry, #106

Dallas, TX 75231

AT & T P. O. Box 105068 Atlanta, GA 30348-5068

Aerial Company, Inc. 2430 Rose St., Unit 5 La Crosse, WI 54603

BR Associates, Inc. 216 West U.S. Hwy 20, Unit 29 Michigan City, IN 46360

Bennett, Weston & Lajone PC 1750 Valley View Lane No. 120 Dallas, TX 75234

Citifinancial, Inc. 2406 Rose St., Unit 13 La Crosse, WI 54603

Crowel Agency 324 Dunes Plaza, Unit 19 Michigan City, IN 46360

Custom Landscaping 2012 E US Highway 20 Michigan City, IN 46360

Department of Administration 101 E. Wilson St. Madison, WI 53703

VIA ECF U.S. Trustee

1100 Commerce Street, Room 976 Dallas, TX 75242-1496

AT & T P. O. Box 8100 Aurora, IL 60507-8100

Arbor E & T, LLC 320 Dunes Plaza, Unit 9 Michigan City, IN 46360

Bank of America NA

c/o Midland Loan Services, Inc. Attn: Bryan Turner

10851 Mastin Overland Park, KS 66210

Bridgeview Plaza 1255 Corporate Center Dr. PH 10 Monterey Park, CA 91754

Coney Island, Inc. 2416 Rose St., Unit 9 La Crosse, WI 54603

Custom Alarm **Custom Communications** 1661 Greenview Dr. SW Rochester, MN 55902-4215

D & M Excavating, Inc. 9896 W 300 N Bldg A Michigan City, IN 46360

Department of Water Works P. O. Box 888 Michigan City, IN 46361

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Dollar General 324 Dunes Plaza, Unit 20 Michigan City, IN 46360 Document Dunes Plaza Page 11 of 12 41-99 Main Street, 2nd Floor Flushing, NY 11355

Eagle Crest 1925 Valley View Lane Dallas, TX 75234

Eagle Crest P. O. Box 25965 Shawnee Mission, KS 66225-5965 Ellefson Excavating, Inc. 311 Cook St La Crosse, WI 54601 First Federal Savings & Loan 2406 Rose St., Unit 14 La Crosse, WI 54603

Flow-Rite Pipe & Sewer Services, LLC 20526 W. Ridge Ave. P. O. Box 3 Galesville, WI 54630 Fruit Belt Hearing Center 136 Dunes Plaza, Unit 25 Michigan City, IN 46360

GP Warehouse Funding 1255 Corporate Center Dr PH 10 Monterey Park, CA 91754

Grand Pacific Finance Corp 41-99 Main St, 2nd Floor Flushing, NY 11355 Grand Pacific Finance Corp. c/o Jeffrey A. Hokanson Hostetler & Kowalik PC 101 West Ohio St., #2100 Indianapolis, IN 46204-4211 Great Lakes Museum of Military History 321 Dunes Plaza, Unit 17 Michigan City, IN 46360

H & R Block Eastern Enterprises, Inc. 2430 Rose St., Unit 17 La Crosse, WI 54603

41 41 30

Help at Homes, Inc. 154 Dunes Plaza, Unit 22 Michigan City, IN 46360 Hilltopper W 6833 Industrial Rd Onalaska, WI 54650

JACS Salon, LLC 2330 Rose St., Unit 23 La Crosse, WI 54603 Job Works 344 Dunes Plaza, Unit 22 Michigan City, IN 46360 L.A. Nails 2410 Rose St., Unit 11 La Crosse, WI 54603

La Crosse Area Conv. & Visitors Bureau d/b/a Welcome Center 2400 Rose St., Unit 4
La Crosse, WI 54603

La Crosse County Treasurer 400 4th St North, Room 1290 La Crosse, WI 54601 La Crosse Water Utility 400 La Crosse St La Crosse, WI 54601

La Porte County Treasurer 813 Lincolnway, #205 La Porte, IN 46350 LaPorte Regional Health Systems, Inc. d/b/a Occupational Health 340 Dunes Plaza, Unit 3 Michigan City, IN 46360

Lebakkens, Inc. d/b/a Lebakkens Rent-To-Own 2424 Rose St., Unit 1A La Crosse, WI 54603 Ofy

Liem Nuynh d/b/a Top Nails 348 Dunes Plaza, Unit 15 Michigan City, IN 46360 Michigan City Family Dentistry 328 Dunes Plaza, Unit 12 Michigan City, IN 46360 Midland Loan Services
P. O. Box 25965
Shawnee Mission, KS 66225-5965

NIPSCO P. O. Box 13007 Merrillville, IN 46411-3007 North Country Steak 2430 Rose St., Unit 25 La Crosse, WI 54603 Northrop Grumman Technical Srvcs 264 Dunes Plaza, Unit 6 Michigan City, IN 46360 Case 10-37054-sgj11 Doc 13 Filed 10/08/10 Entered 10/08/10 16:23:13 Desc Main Document Page 12 of 12

Nutrition Center, Inc. 2400 Rose St., Unit B La Crosse, WI 54603 Document Pa Outdoor Service, Inc. 641 Brickl Rd West Salem, WI 54669

Per Mar P. O. Box 1101 Davenport, IA 52805-1101

Planned Parenthood of Indiana 328 Dunes Plaza, Unit 10 Michigan City, IN 46360 Prime Income Asset Management 1800 Valley View Lane No. 300 Dallas, TX 75234 Prime Income Asset Management, Inc. 1925 Valley View, #107 Dallas, TX 75234

Prime Income Asset Management, Inc. 1925 Valley View, #200 Dallas, TX 75234 Propel Financial Services LS 1006260P-6045P P. O. Box 100350 San Antonio, TX 78201 Property Cleaning Systems, Inc. 642 Western Ave. Holmen, WI 54636

RJ Enterprises of Michigan, Inc. Godfathers Pizza 321 Dunes Plaza, Unit 13 Michigan City, IN 46360 RK Dixon 5700 Utica Ridge Rd Davenport, IA 52807 Regis Realty I, LLC 700 Broadway Ave. East Mattoon, IL 61938

Sanchez & Associates 220 E. Virginia St McKinney, TX 75069 Secretary of State of Indiana 201 Statehouse Indianapolis, IN 46204 Secretary of State of Wisconsin P.O. Box 7848 Madison, WI 53707

Sharp-N-All, Inc. d/b/a Schoops Hamburgers 4105 S. Franklin St., Unit 27 Michigan City, IN 46360 Shopko Stores Operating Co., LLC Shopko Pharmacy 2438 Rose St., Unit 3 La Crosse, WI 54603 Shopko Stores, Inc. 2438 Rose St., Unit 2 La Crosse, WI 54603

Subway 216 US Hwy 20, Unit 30 Michigan City, IN 46360 Weir Brothers, Inc. 10721 Luna Rd Dallas, TX 75220 Weir Brothers, Inc. P. O. Box 541793 Dallas, TX 75354

Wells Fargo Bank NA Grand Pacific Bus. Loan Trust 2005-1 4199 Main St., 2nd Floor Flushing, NY 11355-3821 Wells Fargo Bank, NA c/o James W. McNeilly, Jr. Law offices of James W. McNeilly, Jr. 319 Main, #500 La Crosse, WI 54601 Xcel Energy P. O. Box 9477 Minneapolis, MN 55484-9477

VIA ECF

Bank of America, N.A., as Ind. Trustee c/o David M. Bennett Thompson & Knight LLP 1722 Routh Street, #1500 Dallas, TX 75201

Grand Pacific Finance Corp. c/o Jay L. Welford Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, P.C. 27777 Franklin Road, #2500 Southfield, MI 48034-8214 VIA ECF
Dallas County
Linebarger Goggan Blair, et al.
c/o Laurie Spindler Huffman
2323 Bryan Street, #1600
Dallas, TX 75201

VIA ECF

Valwood Improvment Authority c/o Elizabeth Banda Calvo Perdue Brandon Fielder et al P O Box 13430 Arlington, TX 76094-0430 VIA ECF

Grand Pacific Finance Corp. c/o Stephen Goodwin / Lisa Lucas Carrington Coleman, et al. 901 Main Street, #5500 Dallas, TX 75202